

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows.

1-10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) A plurality of web servers each operable in an automation network and configured to ~~for controlling~~ an automation device, comprising:

a processor;

a standard operating system that executes on the processor;

a real-time operating system that executes on the processor;

a first software module that provides a web page and that executes on the processor via the standard operating system;

a second software module for XML parsing that executes on the processor via the standard operating system;

a third software module providing an automation functionality to control the automation device and having an interface to the real-time operating system, the functionality including ability to execute control tasks which would otherwise be executed by standalone stored program controls, wherein the functionality of the third module, including execution of the control tasks, is loaded, configured, started and terminated by the web server;

an application programming interface; and

a configurable first connection between ~~to the Internet for access to~~ at least one of the software modules and a software module in another one of the web servers via the application programming interface and the Internet; and

a second connection between the at least one of the software modules and the software module in the other one of the web servers, the second connection enabling real time control of an automation device.

12. (canceled)

13. (canceled)

14. (currently amended) The web server according to Claim 11, wherein for both the first and second connections internet protocols are provided for communication between the at least one of the software modules and the software module in the other one of the web servers with the second connection formed over a network other than the Internet~~software modules themselves and for communication between the software modules and components outside the web server.~~

15. (canceled)

16. (previously presented) The web server according to Claim 11, wherein the web server is adapted to configure and administrate the software modules.

17. (canceled)

18. (canceled)

19. (canceled)

20. (previously presented) The web server according to Claim 11, wherein the automation device is a computer numerical controlled machine.

21. (previously presented) The web server according to Claim 11, wherein the automation device is a drive.

22. (previously presented) The web server according to Claim 11, wherein the automation device is a valve.

23. (previously presented) The web server according to Claim 11, wherein the web server comprises a connection to the Internet using a firewall.

24. (canceled)

25. (canceled)

26. (canceled)

27. (canceled)

28. (canceled)

29. (canceled)

30. (canceled)

31. (currently amended) An automation system that controls an automation device via the Internet, comprising:

a first and second web servers, each comprising:

an application programming interface, and

a software module for providing an automation functionality to control the automation device via the application programming interface and to directly access a transport layer, wherein the first server includes an expansion module which controls operation of the automation device, the system further including:

and first and second connections between the the first and second servers, a the first connection being configurable via to the Internet via the transport layer, the connection for to provide access between to the software module of the first server and the software module of the second server by a client via the application programming interface; a the second connection configured over a network other than to the Internet via the transport layer directly accessible by the industrial automation system, the second connection effecting high speed communication suitable for real time control of the automation device.

wherein the automation device is directly accessible from the Internet via the first connection, and

wherein the automation device is accessible from the transport layer via the second connection.

32. (previously presented) The web server according to Claim 31, wherein the industrial automation device is a computer numerical controlled machine.

33. (previously presented) The web server according to Claim 31, wherein the industrial automation device is a drive.

34. (currently amended) The web server according to claim 14 wherein the second connection is further configured through to directly access a transport layer in each of two web servers to and effect a direct connection between a first protocol stack connected to the third software module in ~~one~~the web server and a second protocol stack to which a fourth software module is connected for control of a second automation device, the direct connection effecting direct communication between the third software module and the second software module.

35. (previously presented) The web server of claim 34 wherein the second protocol stack and the fourth software module are integrated in a second web server so that access between the first and second protocol stacks can be effected via the Internet and via the direct connection.